

AN IMA PUBLICATION

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN INDIA TODAY



**BASED ON THE
PROCEEDINGS OF
THE NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON MEDICAL EDUCATION**

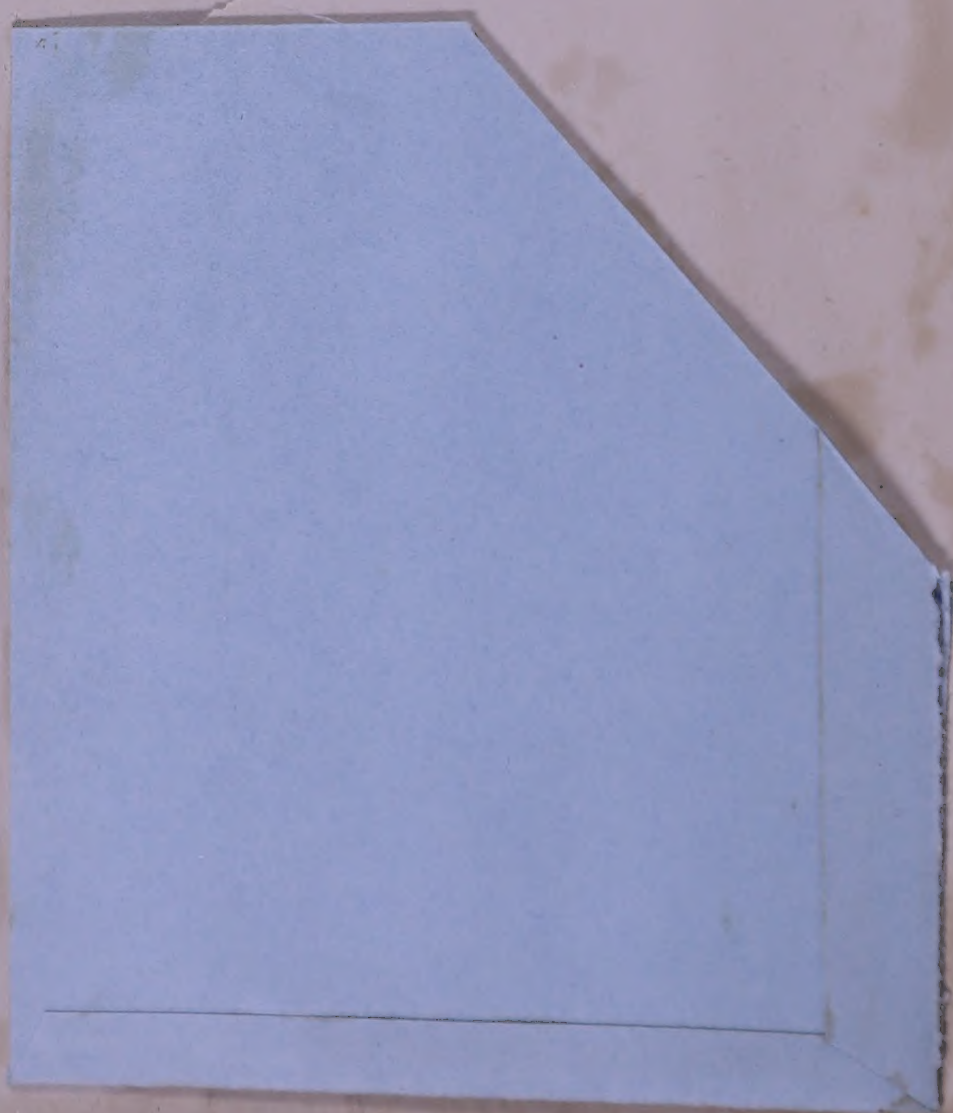
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**INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AT NEW DELHI
ON DECEMBER 7-9, 1990**

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(December 7-9, 1990)

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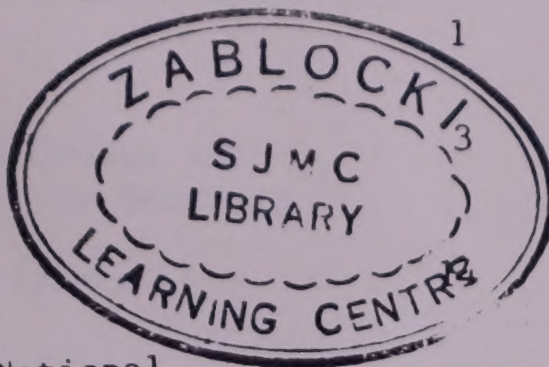
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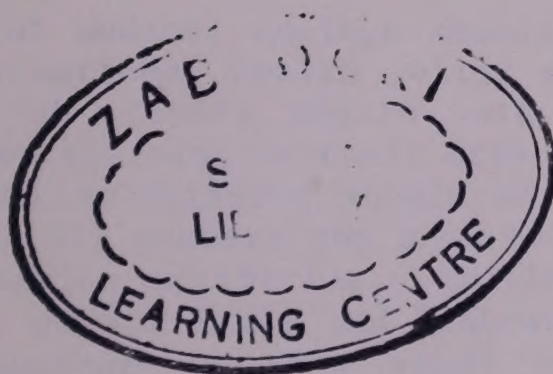
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REPORT ON THE GROUP
ON
UNDERSTANDING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
AND
UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Major task expected from a Primary health Care Physician would comprise over.

- (1) Clinical tasks
- (2) Managerial tasks

Thus it is imperative that young Medical Graduates be fully filled in the methods and techniques of organizing and providing primary health care. Their efficiency and participation in the programme would largely depend upon their training in Primary Health Care during undergraduate period. Young doctors coming out of Medical College lack confidence and competence in the performance of simple day to day activities. At present there is catastrophic lack of proper health care management training for effective delivery of primary Health care services. Curricular training design is well laid out by Medical Council India, however it is not operationalized fully. Implementation of this curriculum leaves much to be desired.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) ORIENTATION OF FACULTY OF MEDICAL COLLEGES

The faculty of medical college should be well oriented on the national health goals national health policy and concept of health for all and concept of primary health care. An enlightened faculty can initiate need based training in their area of concern. The responsibility of training and orientation should be of Dean. Medical College can choose the faculty members and seek help from the national bodies for organising orientation activities. Initiatives and efforts on the part of policy makers at the State and Central Govt. seem to be lacking and not missing altogether on this vital concern, consequently the teaching faculty is ignorant about the national goals and priorities.

2) INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

Teaching institutions like medical colleges should have clear Teaching -Training and Research goal to pursue and achieve. Institutional goals should provide a framework to guide the teaching and training programme.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Each medical college should have a curriculum Committee to plan and coordinate the teaching and training programmes. This committee should also provide feed back to all faculty members. Putting curriculum of MCI into operation should be responsibility of this committee.

STRENGTHENING OF MEDICAL COLLEGE FACULTY

The vacant position should be filled immediately and the minimum prescribed by M.C.I. should be achieved. Opening up of new medical colleges should be discouraged.

TEACHING TRAINING AID CELL FOR TEACHING TRAINING TECHNOLOGIES OR LEARNING RESOURCE MATERIAL CELL

Modern facilities for teaching and training should be organised on priority basis. Audio-visual material, projections and Printed material should become readily available to facilitate the learning process. For this purpose Teaching-Training Aid Cell should be established in each medical college. At the moment this seems to be missing. Investment on this cell would be a real investment.

PRIORITY AREAS IN CURRICULUM

Priority should go to Maternal and Child Health, Population Demography, Nutrition as also the National Health Programmes in relation to most common problems encountered in day to day practice.

Students should be assigned the work and responsibility, right from the start, in the community nearby medical college. It could be in a rural ward or urban slum area. Families should be studied longitudinally and this should form a part of terminal evaluation.

EXPERIMENTATION AND RESEARCH IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Medical Council of India encourages medical colleges to undertake experimentation in medical education, however it seems to be a herculean task to put into practice.

Research in Medical Education has not been undertaken nationally. The whole system of Medical Education needs to be evaluated and assessed objectively, in the light of national health policy.

Innovation : Each medical college should undertake innovation

h as involving medical practitioners of repute in the training programmes, posting of students and interns with medical practitioners, teaching methods other than lectures, teams training and integrated teaching training programme etc. etc. /

TRAINING IN MANAGERIAL TASKS

Medical Education prime focus is on the 'Doctor' the para professionals and other professional's training is not considered seriously. Training of birth attendants, health guides, anganwadi workers, multipurpose health workers, health supervisors, nurses and various other categories is equally important.

Managerial tasks training is seldom undertaken during undergraduate period. The concept must be built during this period and certainly should be enlarged during internship period. Financial management, effective supervision, planning, coordination, evaluation, working with the community, communication and interview skills and health education are important managerial tasks.

PLACE OF TRAINING OF UNDERGRADUATE

Medical Education for primary health care physicians is happening in institutions meant for tertiary care. Super specialities and speciality and postgraduate education gets priority over undergraduate programme. It is therefore necessary that institutions reorient its programme for undergraduate education, postgraduate education and other training programmes and lay down clear out objectives. The training and teaching of undergraduate should be happening ideally at district, sub-division and primary health centre level. Reorientation of medical education envisaged that medical colleges take full responsibility of free community development block area and gradually take over a district deemed to be most rationale step in the direction of teaching and training of undergraduates. There should be appropriate balance in exposure to various levels of health care facilities.

INTERNSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME

It is the final phase of preparation of basic doctor. Internship period is thus interface between learning and practice. This period of training needs to be well organised; supervised, coordinated and should be pursued seriously. Residency system should give weightage to the performance during internship period. Some part of practical examination (skill testing) should be conducted after internship period. The medical interns should be given the responsibility of small geographical area and community to work for and learn the total spectrum of health care, intersectoral approach and community mobilization and participation etc.

REPORT OF THE GROUP
ON
MEDICAL MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO NATIONAL
MEDICAL EDUCATION POLICY

Those who attended

tors	Dr. V. Parameshvara Dr.D.S.Mehra
ce Consultant	Dr.J.S.Bajaj
linator & rteur	Dr. Jagdish C.Sobti with Dr. B.S.Sudhindra Dr.A.J.Shelat Dr.B. Ramamurthy Lt.Gen.Grover Dr.N.K.Grover

The Group discussed the question of "what is expected of a doctor". In India, over 10,000 doctors pass out every year from approximately 150 medical colleges. However, the doctor population is not properly dispersed and there was concentration mainly in urban areas.

Medical Education has to be re-oriented to meet social needs and to be community based. The training of doctors in India is not oriented to the health needs of the country. This malady has to be corrected. A basic doctor, to effectively deliver health care to the masses of the country must be an astute clinician, a good communicator, an educator, and a sound administrator, so as to effectively lead an expanding health team for a positive health action work and as his domain of the doctor has crossed the boundaries of drugs and dispensaries and presently extends to a large extent to the families to whom he communicates, hence the need for the basic doctor to be a community physician.

The undergraduate medical education aims at producing medical graduates who would have the capability of providing comprehensive health care to both rural and urban communities. Such care should not only be curative but also include promotive, preventive and rehabilitative aspects of health services in an integrated manner. In order to be able to perform the tasks mentioned above the medical graduates should be able to demonstrate the requisite competencies so as to:-

1. Diagnose common disorders with the help of such diagnostic facilities as are likely to be available in the average community settings.
2. Perform simple laboratory tests and operative procedures, including surgical methods of fertility control.
3. Perform methods of first level management of acute emergencies promptly and efficiently.
4. Work effectively in a community settings by acquiring proper attitude and skills in order to improve the quality of life of that community.
5. Conduct scientific enquiry and critical analysis.
6. Establishment communication and good working relationship with medical colleagues members of allied health professions and community.
7. Provide advice about promotion of health, prevention of diseases rehabilitation of health.
8. Plan implement and evaluate health education activities.
9. Continue self education and be a life long learner.
10. Train other health professionals.
11. Organise and affectively manage health services.

The group discussed about the countries requirement of medical personal. It was considered that the medical personal in qualified all systems of medicine is quite large and enough for the needs of the country. But they are not properly distributed over the country according to the needs of the various areas.

There is also under-employment and unemployment of doctors. The group, therefore, considers that no more medical colleges should be opened except in exceptional cases where there are no such colleges.

The Group noted that there were a number of medical colleges which are charging capitation fee on the enterance of students. This was commercialization of the medical education and should be stopped.

With regard to the 15 percent reservation in mdical colleges, for students out side the States, it was noted that this was not being implemented in certain States in the spirit of the directive of the Supreme Court. As the group recommended that if there were any

difficulties in its implementation they should be removed and its implementation be given effective. This would help the students to go other places and have a broader prospective of language and social culture.

Coming to the Post-graduate medical education, the group felt that the number of seats in Post-Graduate courses, both in diploma and degree, were more than necessary and this resulted in diversification of students from general practice to specialization. A proper appraisal of the needs of specialists and super-specialties in each speciality should be conducted by the Government and number of seats adjusted accordingly.

Since most of the students who passed diploma courses go for degree courses, the question of continuing the diploma courses needs to be considered. The group recommended that Education Commission of Health Sciences should be established as central organisation in the field of professional education in health related fields. It should be constituted on the lines of the UGC. The operational framework of the Commission should include:-

To provide realistic projections for national Health manpower requirements and to recommend the establishment of mechanism(s) through which such projections could be continuously reviewed in context of evolving socio-epidemiological needs and demographic requirements.

To initiate action for the creation of educational institutions and facilities in already existing educational institutions, that would facilitate the production of projected health manpower, and to consider the establishment of one or more Universities of Health Sciences.

To implement desired changes required to be brought about in the curriculum contents and training programmes of health personnel and allied health professionals, at various levels of functioning.

To plan and implement appropriate changes in the educational system that would facilitate the establishment of essential interlinkages between health functionaries of various grades.

To establish a continuing review mechanism for the strengthening of health-related pedagogic and communication technologies, and to recommend the development of such health-related community educational programmes that could effectively and optimally utilise these technologies.

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To develop in built mechanisms of review, monitoring and mid-course corrections so as to ensure expeditious implementation of recommendations and decisions.

To coordinate inter-sectoral research by interlinking the education and training of suitable manpower with mission oriented research needs.

REPORT OF THE GROUP
ON
UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR THE
NATIONAL SEMINAR ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

The following members attended the meeting:-

1. Dr. C. Prakash, Chairman
2. Dr. D.S. Aggarwal
3. Dr. Dharam Prakash
4. Dr. S.C. Chawla
5. Dr. D. Suryanarayana
6. Dr. Mrs. K.K. Mahajan
7. Dr. G.C. Mansharamani
8. Dr. K.B. Logani
9. Dr. Dinesh Chandra
10. Dr. Arun Agarwal
11. Dr. S. Krishna Prakash
12. Dr. Hemlata Gupta
13. Dr. Krishna Garg
14. Dr. Om Prakash Ghai
15. Dr. S.K. Mahajan
16. Dr. P.B.S. Sarma

Dr. C. Prakash, Chairman of the session welcomed the participants and introduced them to the main issues given in the background proposed medical Education Policy. At the very outset it was agreed by the whole group that the term used regarding Medical Education should be Graduate Medical Education and not Under-Graduate Medical Education.

We noted the objectives laid down in the proposed National Education Policy and laid down in the Preamble of MCI recommendations for Undergraduate Medical Education. After deliberation in the depth it was decided that objectives laid down for basic doctor in proposed National Education Policy though ideal are not practical and could not be achieved in 4½ years. The group discussed the following issues given in the document.

"Basic doctor should be a primary contact physician capable of early detection and diagnosis and management of common illnesses encountered by him in the Primary Health Centre in his clinic. In addition, he should be able to administer first aid emergent treatment and refer them to the referral hospital if indicated. He should undertake comprehensive treatment, comprehensive management of all patients with special

emphasis on family and community. The concept what a basic doctor should be as recommended by JIPMER was also discussed and it was felt that there was too much weightage given to community medicine at the cost of clinical medicine."

In view of the above objectives the following recommendations were made regarding the selection and reservation criteria, curriculum and syllable.

Group noted that though objectives of basic doctors had been laid by various agencies, the reason for non fulfilment seems to be improper implementation due to improper knowledge and poor infrastructure existing in various medical colleges, hence group recommend that:-

-) A Medical Education Cell may be created in Medical College to plan, implement and monitor the academic activities.
-) Every teacher should be made accountable for his academic performance. A mechanism should be developed in consultation with the teaching faculties.

SELECTION: Eligibility for medical entrance examination:

1. Eligibility for students for seeking admission to medical college (MBBS Courses) either through marks or through medical entrance examination. It was decided that present system, a student having passed 10+2 examination in English, physics, Chemistry and Biology should be continued. It was considered that para professional training should be improved till their eligibility is considered for admission.
2. Medical Educationist should have interaction with Science Teachers involved in planning implementing and evaluating the curriculum for various subjects in 10+2.
3. Present system of obtaining 50% or more marks for eligibility to appear in the examination was discussed. Following modification were recommended:
 - a) The minimum marks should be 1st class (60% or above in English, physics, Chemistry and Biology.
 - b) In case of reserved categories i.e. SC/ST, present system of granting 10% concession to SC/ST should be continued. In other words, eligibility criteria for them will be 50% now.

c) Medical entrance examination has enforced nearly all over the country it was recommended the cut off points regarding marks should be 30%. Any student who obtained less than this marks should not be considered eligible for the admission to medical colleges.

Question to attitude/aptitude was hostly debated. it was suggested that during MBBS training an attempt should be made to have attitude/aptitude of students towards medical courses.

RESERVATION

Group noted the present reservation policy which is enforced in various medical colleges and future reservation policy contemplated by the Govt. of India and various State Governments. The group was in full agreement with earlier IMA recommendations that there should be no reservation in admission to medical colleges except in those categories which are provided in the constitution. It should be noted that the reservation should be kept minimum. As they are likely to affect the standard of education.

ICULA AND SYLLABIA

Place of learning: Group noted that in all colleges graduate and post graduate courses are being run simultaneously with the result that graduate medical education received low priority. Following observations were made:-

Staffing pattern for all the Departments as at present recommended by the MCI for starting a post graduate course in a Department recognised for graduate courses should be reviewed. The group also felt that one Asstt. Professor is not enough, more staff should be recommended.

Criteria of allocation of seats for post graduate admission again needs full review. Any Department which is running a post-graduate degree courses should not be allowed to run a diploma course and vice-versa.

Even the present ratio of teacher and post graduate degree student or 1 teacher & 2 post-graduate diploma students needs to be reviewed.

Following duration of course was recommended by the group.
1 duration 5½ years.

1. 1st professional - 15 months
2. 2nd Professional - 15 months
3. 3rd professional - 2 years
4. Internship - 1 year

Subjects to be covered in various professional examinations.

FIRST Profession should include a) Anatomy b) Physiology and c) Bio-Chemistry

SECOND Profession should include Pathology, consisting of general pathology, clinical pathology and Pathology of common diseases occurring in the community.

- a) Micro Biology including Virology, Parasitology and Immunology. It should also include public health investigations.
- b) Pharmacology inclusive of basic pharmacology, clinical pharmacology, toxicology, and poisoning cases.
- c) Forensic medicine inclusive of post mortem handling of medico-legal (MLC). Awareness of law related to medicine and medical ethics.

FINAL PROFESSION

1. General medicine and allied subjects (skin, V.D., and Chest diseases etc.)
2. Surgery and allied subjects consisting of Orthopaedics, anaesthesiology, trauma etc.
3. Maternity and Child Health consisting of Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
4. ENT and EYE
5. Community Medicine.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Training in Sociology including demography, population dynamics, social factors related to health and diseases, principles of normal sociology and social psychology. Health economics, diet nutrition be taught in the first professionals. As no staff has been recommended for training of the above subject MCI is requested to recommend suitable

staff, with their qualifications to train the students in the above specialities.

Integration and teaching is very important at all levels in training of Pre-clinical and para-clinical subjects. Clinicians must be involved to give a clinical orientation. Similarly in clinical subjects pre-clinical and para-clinical teachers must be involved in teaching students in the applied aspects.

As the course has been reduced an equal weightage has to be given to each subject. Curricula and Syllabi should be modified in such a way that student received a clinically oriented training. Following are the few examples:

In an Anatomy dissection of whole body should be replaced by audio-visual teaching, and more emphasis should be on the transverse sections of the human body and surface anatomy of various organs.

In Physiology experimental physiology on animal should be deleted. On the other hand investigations done on normal human beings should be practical in Physiology. In Bio-chemistry appropriate modern technology used in various investigation should be introduced.

MINATION:

Day to day assessment/internal assessment was considered very essential feature. Its weightage should be increased to 20%. It should be made more scientific and students should be made aware of assessment.

Terminal examination should be held frequently both in theory/practical/clinical and their marks should be added to theory, practical examinations held at the end of the course.

Suggested marks allocated to various subjects to:

Anatomy	: 200 marks
Physiology	: 200 "
Bio-Chemistry	: 200 "
Pathology	: 200 "
Micro-Biology	: 200 "
Forensic Medicine	: 200 "
Pharmacology	: 200 "
Medicine	: 400 "
Surgery	: 400 "

Maternity &
 Child Health : 400 Marks
 ENT & Eye : 400 "
 Community Medicine : 400 "

Division of marks should be as follows:

SUBJECTS:

	<u>Pre-clinical</u>	<u>Para-clinical</u>	<u>Clinical</u>
<u>Theory</u>	50%	50%	40%
<u>Practical</u>	40%	40%	50%
<u>Vio Voca</u>	10%	10%	10%

Minimum pass marks should be 50%. In pre-clinical and Para-clinical subjects are community medicine 50% in aggregate and 50% in theory while in clinical subjects it should be 50% in aggregate, and 50% in clinical examination. Marks obtained in oral examination should be added to theory marks.

EXAMINERS:

Present practice of 4 examiners in each subject should be continued (If students are 50 and above)

Out of the internal examiners one should be the Head of the Department and 2nd one should come from the pool of the examiners above the rank of associate professor. Appointment should be by rotation.

GENERAL MARKS:

Examiner should be requested to keep the objectives laid down for a basic doctor in his view. While framing question and eliciting the reply.

2. As far as possible objective assessment should be carried out.
3. Record of all examinations should be kept for a sufficient period for review of any case, if required.

SHIP:

Group noted that students are using internship period in preparation for their post-graduate examinations instead of self-learning during their posting in the various departments. Hence group decided that this period can be utilised effectively if evaluation is strictly and enforced during and at the end of the internship.

The entrance examination for the post-graduate courses should be modified so that skills learnt by him during internship are also tested and weightage given accordingly. Recommendations regarding duration of posting in various departments during internship as laid down by MCI should be strictly adhered to. Instead of posting them for 6 months in the rural area, it should be for 3 months in District Hospital and 3 months in Primary Health Centres. Hence at least one District Hospital should be attached to a medical college.

In addition to graduate qualification laid down by the MCI, a post-graduate essential training programme should be compulsory to become a teacher. It may be obtained either before entering or just immediately after entering the department, as a teacher. The institute should also offer updating courses and education technology on regular basis.

REPORT OF THE GROUP
ON
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

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Dr. Satya Prakash

Dr. M.A. Bansali (U.S.A.)

Dr. J.R. Verma (U.S.A.)

After welcome by the Moderator, the Group was informed about the meeting held on 3rd December 1990, when the issues were identified. The Resource Consultant, Dr. S.K. Lal, demonstrated what to expect from Continuing Education by the proforma which was circulated amongst members. The point was very well appreciated that there is scope to learn, improve and has to have a motivation. After, demonstrating this he made a brief outline of the issues pertaining to the Continuing Medical Education.

The objectives are identified:-

- 1) To improve the delivery of Health Care by updating the knowledge skills and techniques of providers of health services.
- 2) To in calculate the habit of self-study amongst the members of the profession continuing medical education to improve knowledge and information about the latest development in the field of medical sciences.

After deliberations the Group made the following recommendations

1. NEED FOR CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

In order to keep pace with the knowledge explosion the Group feels that every member of the profession must be kept update in the knowledge and skills and there is need knowledge and skills and there is need for Continuing Medical Education. It further recommends that Continuing Medical Education be recognised as essential component of Medical Education for updating the knowledge and skills and attitudes

alth professionals at all levels. This aspect be included as a
f National Medical Education Policy.

OBLIGATORY OR VOLUNTARY

In view of the present situation, the Group recommends that
uing Medical Education be continued as a Voluntary effort while
ld be necessary to initiate steps for making Continuing Medi
ucation progressively mandatory over a period of time. The Group
r recommends that teaching institution can come forward and set
ple. The profession organisations can also initiate a process
ing mandatge to their members.

RESPONSIBILITY ABOUT THE C.M.E.

It was unanimously accepted that medical institutions, employers
ofessional organisations have to take a definite responsibility
e Continuing Medical Education. Medical Council of India/State
s State and the Central Government should also participate in
g the responsibility. The professionals and the members of the
ity will also have to come forward. The group further recommends
ndian Medical Association should appoint task force to study the
e role and responsibility of the each organisation.

FORMAL/INFORMAL TRAINING

While the informal training should go on, it is recommended
IE should be carried out as a structured programme with continuous
ion.

CERTIFICATION

It is desirable to certify the CME Course in order to achieve
per standards. For these there should be a Accrediation Committee
IMA and other professional organisation.

TYPE OF TRAINING

Recognising the special needs of the candidates in different
ons, it is recommended that the CME should be carried out thorough:

a) Contact Programme i.e. short and longterm courses, workshops
symposia, conferences etc.

b) Distant Medical Education Programme:

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- i. Print Correspondence course, Journals, Books, reviews.
- ii. Through Mass Media Audio and Video Tapes.

7. CONTENTS OF CME

The professional organisations should recognise the needs of the health professionals. They should be involved in overall policy planning, determination of future directions and priorities, development of the course contents and updating them. It is further recommended that professional organisation at their own level should start learning Resource Cells at their Headquarters and State Levels.

8. EVALUATION

The continuous evaluation is required for the taker, providers as well as for the systems. The evaluation could be through self-evaluation or by an independent organisations. The learning resource material should have built in the evaluation process. The Accreditation Committee should continue to evaluate the providers the material, the course contents but in a manner that evaluation process does not become counter productive.

9. FINANCES

Recognising the need of finance to carry out the education programmes and also the non-availability and non-utilisation of funds it is recommended that the responsibility must be shared by the individual himself, employer, Government and Public. Government and the employer must make suitable budgetary allocations for CME Programmes.

10. ROLE OF TEACHING INSTITUTIONS

The Group identified that the teaching institutions have and can play an active role in promoting and coordinating CME activities. They are in a position to run the structured programme of specified durations for the candidates sponsored by the Govt. corporations public undertakings and professional associations.

11. THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

IMA College of General Practitioners for CME programmes of the Family Physicians, IMA Academy of Medical Specialities and professional organisations for CME of the specialist can play an active role in the preparation and provision of learning resource material (review articles/tapes/slides/video films). The learning resource material can be examined and supplied for dissemination amongst the target

s after a peer review. These organisations can also play an active role for the training of teachers in educational technology. The preparation of effective reviews of learning resource material. It is further recommended that the professional organisation should generate health education material for creating public awareness.

PRIORITIES

Since family physician/general practitioners formed the backbone of health care. The Group felt that the greater inputs be made available for the CME activities of the family physicians by not ignoring the inputs required for the specialist, super-specialist and research workers. It is further recommended that CME programme be not limited to the medical personnel but also be for other category of health workers.

COORDINATION

At the moment, the CME activities are being encouraged through various agencies like CSIR, ICMR, DST, UGC, Government of India through National Academy in addition to International agencies like WHO, UNICEF, as well as by the pharmaceutical and other allied agencies. There is lack of any coordination between the various agencies. It is recommended that a coordinating agency for proper allocation and utilisation of funds be set up. It is a long way. In this direction, Indian Medical Association may play an active role.

DIRECTORY OF CME ACTIVITIES

A coordination agency should undertake to prepare the directory of CME programme and widely circulated amongst the target group well in advance.

REPORT OF THE GROUP
On
POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of Postgraduate Medical Education is to:

1. Produce Specialists and

2. Superspecialists to provide leadership in the secondary and tertiary stages of the people oriented, situation based health care delivery system with a thrust on preventive aspect. Such a doctor should be conversant with the relevant technological development in the relevant field of health care.

I. To produce appropriately motivated medical teachers, aware of their role and prepared to give their best.

II. Research workers competent to carry out researches in medicine and related fields relevant to the needs of the country. He has to be innovative in his approach.

V. It is felt that no efficient postgraduate education can be organised without appropriate undergraduate education.

V. Organisation of Secondary and tertiary stages of medical health care cannot be ensured by medical specialists and superspecialists alone. It needs concurrent development of other health professionals like nurses, pharmacists, technologists etc. Hence it is recommended that along with the strengthening of one MCI a close inter-action has to be worked out between the different statutory Councils of the different health professionals.

VI. No planning of PG education can be done without having data on the requirements. Accordingly, it is suggested that immediate steps be taken to have a census of manpower of different categories concerning the health care delivery and to draw a manpower planning for further requirement based on that data to ensure an efficient and appropriate health care delivery system.

VII. The Group feels that there is no necessity of setting up Medical Education Commission as recommended in the draft Medical Education Policy in addition to the existing authorities.

Viii. On the issue of University of Health Sciences, the Group feels

that immediate steps be taken to review the functioning of existing Universities of Health Sciences before setting up any further medical universities in the country.

Diploma courses in specialities where degree courses are available should be abolished.

The age ceiling for appointment of Sr. Residents should be done away with.

The present problems of All India Entrance Examinations needs to be immediately reviewed as there is an apprehension that this methodology of bringing national integration may become counter-productive if the present situation is allowed to continue.

It is recommended that the teachers of medical colleges should be made non-practising and the teachers should be offered appropriate salaries and fine benefits to enable them to live a life commensurate with their role in the society and to enable them to give their best.

The rural service of one year should be made mandatory prior to admission to any Postgraduate course.

Clinical teaching under both undergraduate and postgraduate to be carried out in the evenings as well.

Postgraduate teaching has to be done at the block level also.

The teachers being key figures for any successful implementation of the teaching system, steps are essential for compulsory orientation of teachers at the entry point as well as periodically.

Library and information series should be improved and library network should be extended to all States. Steps for economic publication of books should be taken and appropriate books for orientation of General Practitioners should be published.

REPORT OF THE GROUP
ON
CONTROL OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

Medical Council of India a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament with the sole subject of maintaining the standards of medical education in the country, should be granted more powers, facilities and funds to continue to discharge its obligations more effectively.

In the purposed amended Act MCI Amendment Act 1989. It is envisaged that the Indian Medical Councils shall have a branch in each state to help it in the discharge of its obligations at the State level. It will create confusion between existing state Medical Council and the proposed branches of MCI. It is suggested that the State Medical Council should function in close liaison with MCI discharge its duties under the supervision of MCI.

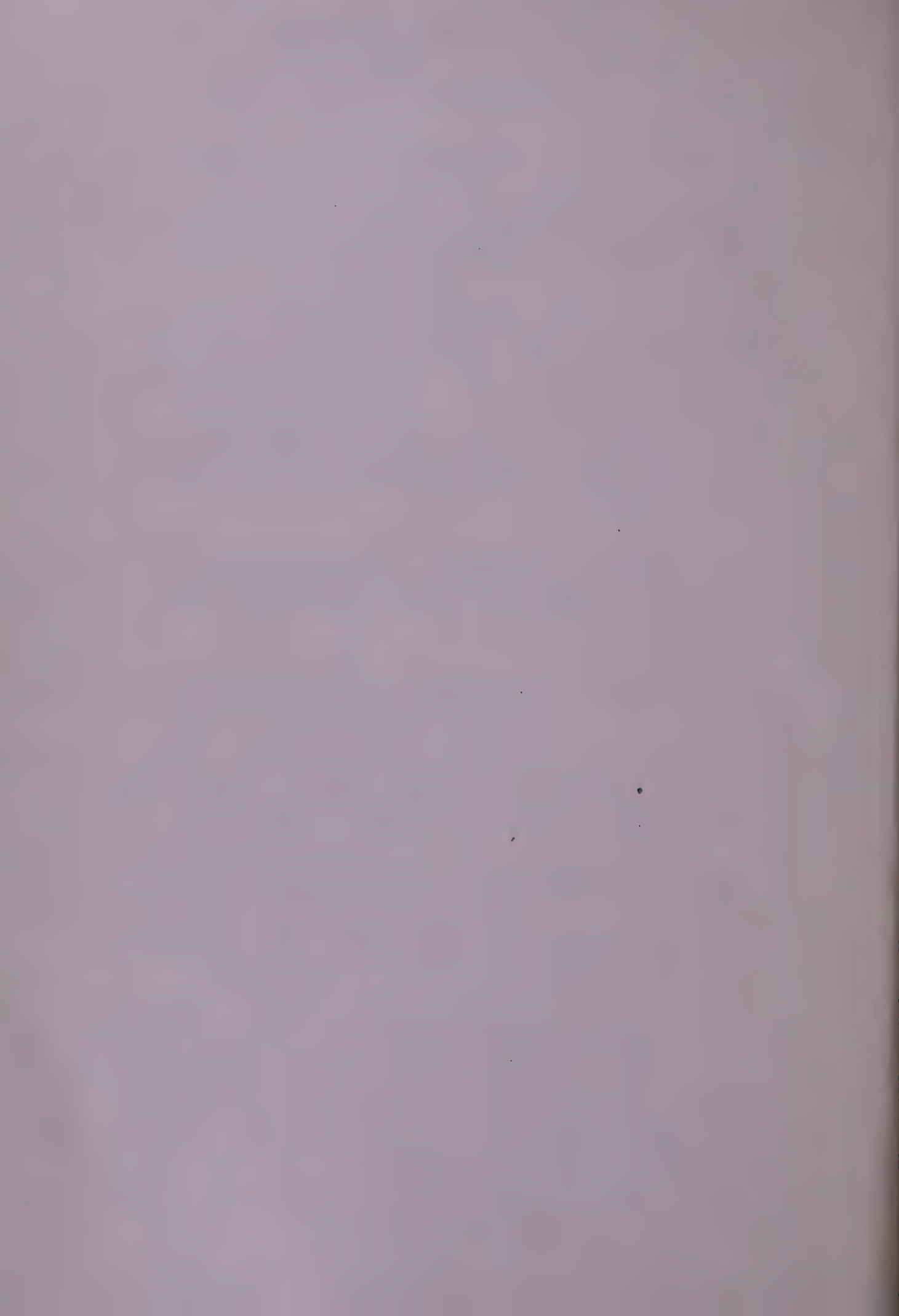
The democratic set up of the MCI should not be disturbed. The proposal of adding a sizeable number of nominated members/ Ex-officio members will considerably dilute its autonomous character.

It should not be considered only a recommending body, but it should have powers to directly get its decisions implemented.

The electrical college of the Council should be maintained by the Council office and necessary charges from time to time incorporated under intimation to the Govt. of India.

The State Medical Council established in different States under the Act of State Legislatures should confine their activities as per the Act. The State Councils are urged to register doctor of modern system of medicine qualified from medical colleges, approved by MCI only in a separate register.

Establishment of University of Health Sciences in the two States is a welcome development. Various disciplines in the Universities are expected to function with inter-action with other disciplines, but the overall control of medical education in the modern system of medicine should remain under the faculty of medicine. At this stage, mixing or combining of the syllabus curriculum of various system of medicine is not desirable and will add to confusion. The establishment of these universities



is a new development. Their functioning should be taken on experimental basis and be watched.

While the proposal to establish National Health and Medical Education Commission is welcome, the role of the Commission should be confined to assess medical and paramedical need and manpower of the country on continuing basis and to provide funds for its development and requirements.

MCI is advised to incorporate knowledge about law in relation to delivery of Health Care and practice of Medicine by including it in the curriculum at the undergraduate level.

The admission to the medical college by holding examination of national level has created a lot of confusion, delay and avoidable sufferings to the young students. The experiment of reservation percentage in every college on national basis is welcome, but in order to make it simple and effective the pattern of IITs be emulated. The present exercise done by various authorities has not proved successful. Reservations in admission in postgraduate courses should not be on any other consideration other than merit and should be streamlined in such a way that there is no loss of time to any aspiring candidates. Medical Education throughout the country should be according to a uniform calendar so that no time is lost when there is admission transfer from one college to another.

In the last it is suggested that Indian Medical Association should think seriously about going to courts under Public interest litigation of various problems of society, pertaining to health and of medical profession at large.



